



FOLEY SQUARE AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL PEER REVIEW PANEL REPORT

I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The purpose of this panel was to evaluate the "Scope of Work for the Cleaning, Consolidation, and Stabilization of the Human Remains from the African Burial Ground, New York City." The panel met for the express purpose of collecting data and to receive briefings from the projects Scientific Director, the archaeological consultants, and GSA managers. The panel visited the present storage facility at Lehman College to view the condition of the human skeletal remains and were briefed on the proposed conservation protocol.

II. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

Based on these briefings and our review of all relevant documentation we identified the following community established research objectives :

1. To gather biocultural data to better understand the culture, history, living conditions and circumstances of life of colonial Africans in New York and the diaspora.
2. To insure that such data are collected in a manner that is responsive to the express concerns of the descendent community, which include:
 - a. *All scientific research be conducted at Howard University;*
 - b. *That the research should be directed by African American professionals, and offer educational opportunities for African American students and others;*
 - c. *That reinterment occur at the earliest possible time.*

III. CONSERVATION ISSUES:

The scope of work was evaluated within the context of the community established research objectives. This evaluation resulted in the panel identifying conservation and professional ethical issues.



Conservation issues:

1. The proposed conservation scope of work statement is inconsistent with the scientific research objectives, as outlined above;
2. The proposed conservation would result in an extreme delay in the transfer of the human skeletal remains to Howard University.
3. The proposed conservation procedures would result in an unconscionable delay in the reinterment of the human remains;

Professional ethical issues:

1. We agree with the scope of work that the highest possible professional and ethical standards should be maintained in transportation and subsequent analysis of the human remains;
2. We have reviewed the "Bylaws of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Inc." which is cited in the scope, as the standard that should be adhered to for the preparation of the human skeletal remains for transfer to Howard University;
3. These bylaws establish measures that are clearly inappropriate to the preparation of human remains for analysis prior to reinterment; they address the conservation of historic and artistic objects;
4. The preparation of human remains for physical anthropological analysis must be informed by a cognizance of significant anatomical features and a knowledge of relevant research questions; this knowledge is only possessed by a physical anthropologist with training and research experience in biocultural studies;
5. The preparation of the human remains for the physical anthropological analysis should be conducted in compliance with the standard physical anthropological practices and the ethical principles of the American Anthropological Association;
6. Decisions to be made concerning the steps for the preparation and transport of human remains must be made in a manner consistent with the maximization of physical anthropological data retrieval;

IV. SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS:

Based on these considerations, it is the view of the panel, which includes physical anthropologists, with considerable practical experience in the transportation of

humans remains, that immediate relocation of the human skeletal remains to Howard University would result in minimal data loss.

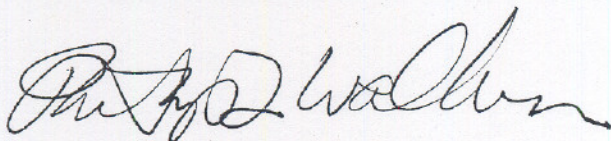
The panel, which includes an historical archaeologist, further concurs that the project's principal archaeological investigator, has considerable experience with burial ground excavations and has been and could continue to be instrumental to this process of documenting and excavating the pedestalled human skeletal material.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS:

In view of foregoing, the entire panel strongly recommends the African Burial Ground human skeletal remains be appropriately packed and shipped to Howard University within 60 days.

We wholeheartedly support the African American communities' desire that the scientific research be conducted at Howard University. Howard University is the only American university that has a large, well documented African American osteological collection and a nationally recognized faculty with expertise in the interpretation of African American history and culture.

Finally, the panel recommends that all decisions concerning this transfer should be made by the physical anthropologist, Dr. Michael Blakey, the Project Scientific Director. This will greatly facilitate the timely analysis and reinterment of this extraordinarily important human skeletal population.



Dr. Phillip Walker

Department of Anthropology
University of California Santa Barbara

Dr. Ted Rathbun

Anthropology Department
University of South Carolina

Dr. Clark Larsen

Department of Sociology and
Anthropology
Purdue University

Dr. Carrel Cowan-Ricks

Historical Archeologist
Clemson University

Dr. Eleanor Mason Ramsey

President
Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd.

humans remains, that immediate relocation of the human skeletal remains to Howard University would result in minimal data loss.

The panel, which includes an historical archaeologist, further concurs that the project's principal archaeological investigator, has considerable experience with burial ground excavations and has been and could continue to be instrumental to this process of documenting and excavating the pedestalled human skeletal material.

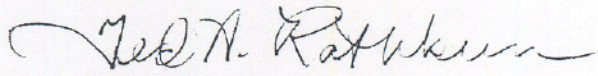
V. RECOMMENDATIONS:

In view of foregoing, the entire panel strongly recommends the African Burial Ground human skeletal remains be appropriately packed and shipped to Howard University within 60 days.

We wholeheartedly support the African American communities' desire that the scientific research be conducted at Howard University. Howard University is the only American university that has a large, well documented African American osteological collection and a nationally recognized faculty with expertise in the interpretation of African American history and culture.

Finally, the panel recommends that all decisions concerning this transfer should be made by the physical anthropologist, Dr. Michael Blakey, the Project Scientific Director. This will greatly facilitate the timely analysis and reinterment of this extraordinarily important human skeletal population.

Dr. Phillip Walker
Department of Anthropology
University of California Santa Barbara


Dr. Ted Rathbun
Anthropology Department
University of South Carolina

Dr. Clark Larsen
Department of Sociology and
Anthropology
Purdue University

Dr. Carrel Cowan-Ricks
Historical Archeologist
Clemson University

Dr. Eleanor Mason Ramsey
President
Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd.

humans remains, that immediate relocation of the human skeletal remains to Howard University would result in minimal data loss.

The panel, which includes an historical archaeologist, further concurs that the project's principal archaeological investigator, has considerable experience with burial ground excavations and has been and could continue to be instrumental to this process of documenting and excavating the pedastalled human skeletal material.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS:

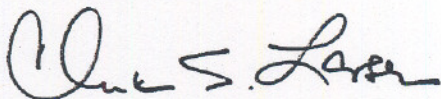
In view of foregoing, the entire panel strongly recommends the African Burial Ground human skeletal remains be appropriately packed and shipped to Howard University within 60 days.

We wholeheartedly support the African American communities' desire that the scientific research be conducted at Howard University. Howard University is the only American university that has a large, well documented African American osteological collection and a nationally recognized faculty with expertise in the interpretation of African American history and culture.

Finally, the panel recommends that all decisions concerning this transfer should be made by the physical anthropologist, Dr. Michael Blakey, the Project Scientific Director. This will greatly facilitate the timely analysis and reinterment of this extraordinarily important human skeletal population.

Dr. Phillip Walker
Department of Anthropology
University of California Santa Barbara

Dr. Ted Rathbun
Anthropology Department
University of South Carolina



Dr. Clark Larsen
Department of Sociology and
Anthropology
Purdue University

Dr. Carrel Cowan-Ricks
Historical Archeologist
Clemson University

Dr. Eleanor Mason Ramsey
President
Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd.

humans remains, that immediate relocation of the human skeletal remains to Howard University would result in minimal data loss.

The panel, which includes an historical archaeologist, further concurs that the project's principal archaeological investigator, has considerable experience with burial ground excavations and has been and could continue to be instrumental to this process of documenting and excavating the pedestalled human skeletal material.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS:

In view of foregoing, the entire panel strongly recommends the African Burial Ground human skeletal remains be appropriately packed and shipped to Howard University within 60 days.

We wholeheartedly support the African American communities' desire that the scientific research be conducted at Howard University. Howard University is the only American university that has a large, well documented African American osteological collection and a nationally recognized faculty with expertise in the interpretation of African American history and culture.

Finally, the panel recommends that all decisions concerning this transfer should be made by the physical anthropologist, Dr. Michael Blakey, the Project Scientific Director. This will greatly facilitate the timely analysis and reinterment of this extraordinarily important human skeletal population.

Dr. Phillip Walker
Department of Anthropology
University of California Santa Barbara

Carrel Cowan-Ricks

Dr. Ted Rathbun
Anthropology Department
University of South Carolina

Dr. Carrel Cowan-Ricks
Historical Archeologist
Clemson University

Dr. Clark Larsen
Department of Sociology and
Anthropology
Purdue University

Dr. Eleanor Mason Ramsey
President
Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd.

humans remains, that immediate relocation of the human skeletal remains to Howard University would result in minimal data loss.

The panel, which includes an historical archaeologist, further concurs that the project's principal archaeological investigator, has considerable experience with burial ground excavations and has been and could continue to be instrumental to this process of documenting and excavating the pedastalled human skeletal material.

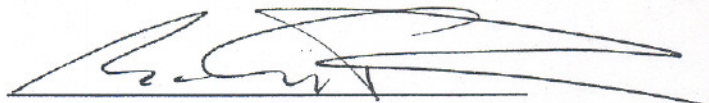
V. RECOMMENDATIONS:

In view of foregoing, the entire panel strongly recommends the African Burial Ground human skeletal remains be appropriately packed and shipped to Howard University within 60 days.

We wholeheartedly support the African American communities' desire that the scientific research be conducted at Howard University. Howard University is the only American university that has a large, well documented African American osteological collection and a nationally recognized faculty with expertise in the interpretation of African American history and culture.

Finally, the panel recommends that all decisions concerning this transfer should be made by the physical anthropologist, Dr. Michael Blakey, the Project Scientific Director. This will greatly facilitate the timely analysis and reinterment of this extraordinarily important human skeletal population.

Dr. Phillip Walker
Department of Anthropology
University of California Santa Barbara



Dr. Ted Rathbun
Anthropology Department
University of South Carolina

Dr. Carrel Cowan-Ricks
Historical Archeologist
Clemson University

Dr. Clark Larsen
Department of Sociology and
Anthropology
Purdue University

Dr. Eleanor Mason Ramsey
President
Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd.